

Messenger Associates, Inc.

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Stimulus Plan Helps Displaced Workers

In February, 2009 President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act into law. Part of New York's \$24.6 billion share of this economic stimulus is expected to provide assistance to unemployed workers. Here are some of the highlights that you can expect to learn more about in the coming weeks:

- Unemployment insurance payments increased by \$25/week
- Benefit coverage period extended to 59 weeks
- 65% of COBRA insurance premiums covered
- Significant increase in funding for education and training

For more information, contact your local One Stop Career Center or visit this New York State Department of Labor [website](#).

Resource for Company Research

It is important to do your homework before showing up for an interview. Checking the company website is a smart first move, but you need to consult other sources to get an unbiased and balanced picture.

Annual reports and financial statements are one source of more detailed information. If you have investments, you may have access to details about all of the companies in your portfolio. Finally, your local public library may subscribe to the popular [Reference USA](#) database. The Syracuse and Liverpool libraries in central NY offer online access to this database using the codes on a member's free library card. Call your favorite public library to ask if they offer this resource.

Points to Ponder

A Japanese proverb reminds us of the importance of persistence in the face of adversity: "Fall seven times, stand up eight."